



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

M

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/866,394	05/25/2001	Nevenka Dimitrova	US 010265	5012

24737 7590 09/08/2004

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
P.O. BOX 3001
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

ZHOU, TING

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/866,394	Applicant(s) DIMITROVA ET AL.	
Examiner Ting Zhou	Art Unit 2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on 12 July 2004 under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/866,394 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.
2. The amendments submitted with the filing of the RCE on 12 July 2004 have been received and entered. Claims 1-38 as amended are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the article entitled "Color SuperHistograms for Video Representation", written by Dimitrova et al., and Wang et al. U.S. Patent 5,805,733.

Referring to claims 1, 11, 21 and 30, Dimitrova et al. teach an apparatus, system, method and computer executable instructions comprising a visual summary controller capable of creating a visual summary of video material (Dimitrova et al.: page 316, Figure 1), wherein the visual summary controller is capable of extracting frame signatures (histograms) from keyframes of

Art Unit: 2173

video material and capable of using the frame signatures to create superhistograms from the keyframes (Dimitrova et al.: page 314, right column, lines 11-25, page 315, section 2 and page 316, section 2.3; this is further shown in Figure 1). However, although Dimitrova et al. teach using the frame signatures and superhistograms to create a visual summary of video material in a broad sense (representing video segments by computing superhistograms) (Dimitrova et al.: Abstract), Dimitrova et al. fail to explicitly teach selecting certain keyframe images to create a compact visual summary of the video material. Wang et al. teach the analysis of scenes and frames in video materials (Wang et al.: column 1, lines 53-56 and Figure 2) similar to that of Dimitrova et al. In addition, Wang et al. further teach selecting certain keyframe images to create a compact visual summary of the video material (summarizing a video sequence by taking one representative frame from each set of related scenes with similar average color histograms, to represent the set to enable the user to view a large sampling of video sequence images) (Wang et al.: column 1, lines 51-67 and column 2, lines 1-24; this is further shown in Figure 3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Dimitrova et al. and Wang et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the visual summary controller capable of extracting frame signatures from keyframes to create superhistograms taught by Dimitrova et al., to include the further step of using certain keyframe images to create a compact visual summary of Wang et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to meet the need of being able to readily access and manipulate video information, by cataloguing and storing the potentially thousands of hours of video for rapid future retrieval, browsing and use, created by the increasing availability and use of digital video and the increasing integration of computer technologies and video production technologies.

Referring to claims 2, 12, 22 and 31, Dimitrova et al. teach the filtering of keyframes (merging of histograms into family histograms) and extracting frames signatures (computing color histograms) from the filtered keyframes before using the frame signatures (histograms) to create the superhistogram representing a visual summary of the video material (page 315, right column, section 2 and page 316, left column, section 2.3).

Referring to claims 3, 13, 23 and 32, Dimitrova et al. teach the use of superhistograms to cluster the filtered keyframes (the ordered merging of the family histograms to create the superhistogram), wherein the clustered keyframes (superhistogram) represents the visual summary of the video material, as recited on page 314, right column, lines 11-25 and shown in Figure 1.

Referring to claims 4 and 14, Dimitrova et al. teach the use of a histogram as the frame signature used to compute superhistograms (page 314, right column, lines 11-15).

Referring to claims 5, 15, 24 and 33, Dimitrova et al. the use of the L1 distance measure method, L2 distance measure method, histogram intersection method, Chi-Square test and Bin-wise histogram intersection method to computer the histogram difference (page 315, right column).

Referring to claims 6, 16, 25 and 34, Dimitrova et al. teach the selection of the most meaningful image for each superhistogram (the top n largest families) as the representative image (page 316, section 2.4).

Referring to claims 7, 17, 26 and 35, Dimitrova et al. teach the ability to select the family histograms (the top n largest families) to use to create the superhistogram used to create the visual summary (page 316, section 2.4).

Referring to claims 8, 18, 27 and 36, while Dimitrova et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to claims 1, 11, 21 and 30 above, Dimitrova et al. fail to explicitly teach the capability to retrieve a visual summary stored in a memory unit and causing the visual summary to be displayed in response to a user request. Wang et al. teach the analysis of scenes and frames in video materials (Wang et al.: column 1, lines 53-56 and Figure 2) similar to that of Dimitrova et al. In addition, Wang et al. further teach the capability of letting a user select a visual summary for viewing, retrieving that visual summary from memory and displaying it in response to the user's request (displaying visual summaries of scenes in a movie bar and allowing users to access the summaries by selecting the segments corresponding to the scenes) (Wang et al.: column 2, lines 16-29 and shown in Figures 2 and 3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Dimitrova et al. and Wang et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the visual summary controller capable of extracting frame signatures from keyframes to create superhistograms of Dimitrova et al., to include the retrieval and display of the visual summary in response to a user request, as taught by Wang et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination to give users the flexibility to select which scenes to watch, saving them time from having to browse through all of the other irrelevant scenes; furthermore, because the increasing availability and use of digital video and the increasing integration of computer technologies and video production technologies have produced the need to be able to readily access and manipulate video information, it would have been advantageous to make such a combination in order to provide users a way to summarize the content of video quickly and easily, in order to catalogue and store the potentially thousands of hours of video for rapid future retrieval, browsing and use.

Art Unit: 2173

Referring to claims 9, 19, 28 and 37, Dimitrova et al. teach the use of the visual summary obtained from the superhistograms to access at least a portion of the video material (classifying and searching in video archives), as recited on page 317, section 4.2.

Referring to claim 10, 20, 29 and 38, while Dimitrova et al. teach all of the limitations as applied to claims 1, 11, 21 and 30 above, Dimitrova et al. fail to explicitly teach the creation of new video material using the compact visual summaries. Wang et al. teach the analysis of scenes and frames in video materials (Wang et al.: column 1, lines 53-56 and Figure 2) similar to that of Dimitrova et al. In addition, Wang et al. further teach the creation of new video material using the compact visual summaries (a collage made up of representative frames for each set of summarized scenes) (Wang et al.: column 3, lines 53-57). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Dimitrova et al. and Wang et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the visual summary controller capable of extracting frame signatures from keyframes to create superhistograms of Dimitrova et al., to include the creation of new video material, as taught by Wang et al. It would have been advantageous for one to utilize such a combination in order to conserve processor time and storage space by utilizing the already existing visual summaries in the creation of new visual materials; furthermore, because the increasing availability and use of digital video and the increasing integration of computer technologies and video production technologies have produced the need to be able to readily access and manipulate video information, it would have been advantageous to make such a combination in order to provide users a way to summarize the content of video quickly and easily, in order to catalogue and store the potentially thousands of hours of video for rapid future retrieval, browsing and use.

4. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar methods of using keyframes to create visual summaries of video material.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

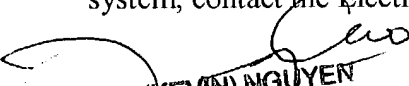
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (703) 305-0328 through the month of October, 2004 and (571) 272-4058 thereafter. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (703) 308-3116 through the month of October, 2004 and at (571) 272-4048 thereafter. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-8720 through the month of October, 2004 and (571) 273-4058.

Art Unit: 2173

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
13 August 2004